

The Marquee

A Publication of the Association of Kansas Theatre
August 1995



From Ric . . .



PROJECTING:

Hey -- we're back on line with a new Marquee, a new look, a new Executive Director and the same great people -- you! We can proudly announce to you that we did receive two grants for \$1,500 each from Southwestern Bell -- one for the Marquee and the other for development of Community Theatre productions for AACT FEST '97 -- we're looking ahead to Independence, Kansas and more great theatre!!!!

We also received more from the Kansas Arts Commission than EVER before (\$5,000+) so we are on track for greatness. AND to top it all off, we have \$\$ in the bank! We are starting 1995-96 on a very upbeat note. Now we need your continued support and help -- so don't forget to renew your membership ASAP.

A wonderful Board Retreat in Lawrence not only won us Sally Thibodeau as Executive Director for the next year, but we also agreed on the theme for the upcoming convention (Sally's idea, I might add!) *Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Theatre*. Now we'll put together a head-

liner, proposals, projects, performances, people and have a great time in Johnson County. Bring money -- Ric wants to take everyone over to the Riverboat!

We already have quite a few proposals for the convention and are certainly accepting more. See enclosure! We're hoping the emphasis will be on productions by students, for students. We want to have at least 8-12 productions of theatre FOR ALL AGES -- including high school productions, university and college productions, productions of original scripts by all ages of playwrights, community theatre outreach productions and professional productions.

We also hope to have workshops, workshops and more workshops. We want there to be so much to do that every evaluation comes back saying, "You planned too much, I couldn't be everywhere at once!" We want workshops on theatre in education, on creative drama, on technical elements, on AACT/FEST rules, on original scripts, on directing, on acting, on auditioning, on management, on sharing lesson plans, on choosing a season, on board management and on and on and on . . .

AND -- with next year's auditions (we're anticipating over 100 auditionees) we will schedule an audition workshop for students (and any professionals who so desire) IN THE SPACE so that students can try out their pieces, get some feedback and walk in

less intimidated and more prepared! We will also separate professional auditions from college and/or high school auditions in some way.

REFLECTING:

What a great convention in 1995!!! I really enjoyed all the productions, from the zany *Greater Tuna* to the tense desperation of *Holy Days*, from the wildly outrageous *Adaptation* to the sweet and easy *Love Letters*. Thanks for sharing with us!

I sincerely hope that the shared joy, the fine adjudication and the hopeful expectancy will carry us onward to AACT/FEST '97. Community Theatres -- please plan now!!! The convention will be held in Independence, Kansas -- home of the Inge Festival. We will have dates for you in early Fall!

This year's Southwestern Bell Grant will include monies for mini-grants to assist you in preparing pieces for AACT/FEST '97. I hope that we will have at least 8 and possibly 10 theatres sign up. Contact the central office as soon as you've made your decision and we'll let people know -- AND -- we'll save you a place!
(continued on next page . . .)

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- * Theatre Seasons Calendar
- * AACT-FEST Report
- * Inge Festival Sets Record
- * Jane Alexander Heads NEA
- * Member News

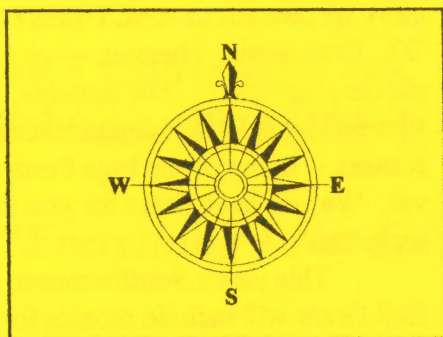
("From Ric"--continued)

CONCLUSION

Remember -- this is Member Driven. Fill out the Request for Proposals (RFP) including what you'd like to see and we'll try to pull it together. Coordinating of the '96 convention will be a committee consisting of Ric Averill, Heather Laird, Phil Kinen, Trish McIntire, Jeannette Bonjour, Pam Jones, Rick Bushnell, Deb Wall, Ric Averill, Jeanne Averill, Laurie Vanderpohl-Hosek and anyone else who yells loud enough that they want to help!

Thanks, please keep in contact. Send us your ongoing seasons for listing in the Marquee! Send articles, send ideas, give blood -- wait, we already do. Take care!

- Ric



AKT CENTRAL OFFICE HAS BEEN RELOCATED!

Sally Thibodeau
Executive Director
AKT

P.O. Box 1873
Lawrence, KS 66044-1873

Phone number is the same:

800-343-2779

Auditions '95 a Success!

*from Jeannette Bonjour
and Heather Laird*

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the auditions at Convention '95 such a success. We had over sixty actors and twenty-five observers from professional and educational theatres. Scholarships were granted, actors were hired and producers/directors discovered new talent. Everyone benefitted and a good time was had by all!

We're expecting twice the response at the '96 Convention in Johnson County. In addition to the return of many of the same participants from this year, several professional theatres from Greater Kansas City have already expressed interest in attending, along with Professional talent from the area. If you have any ideas or suggestions for how we might improve the audition process next year (both registration and operation), please drop a line to us c/o the AKT Central Office.

More information on the '96 auditions will appear in the next Marquee along with the convention flyer, to be mailed out soon. Thanks again and we'll look forward to seeing you in Johnson County!

Deadline for articles for the next Marquee:

September 15, 1995

Mail or fax to AKT Central Office.

Jane Alexander New Head of NEA



As the first artist to head the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Alexander fights to keep arts alive across America. Since becoming chairman in 1993, Alexander has travelled to all 50 states visiting hundreds of NEA-supported community theaters, museums, crafts festivals, writers' workshops, ballet classes and chamber orchestras. Of the NEA Alexander says, "the endowment speaks to the soul of who we are as individuals and as a nation."

Since 1965 grants from the NEA have supported tens of thousands of projects in literature, the performing arts and the visual arts.

* 11,000 grants have gone to individual artists and about 100,000 grants have gone to museums, schools, local theaters, orchestras, dance troupes and other institutions.

* NEA's budget peaked at \$308 million in 1979 and has been declining ever since. The 1995 appropriation is \$164.7 million. As Jane Alexander has often pointed out, that's a cost of 64 cents per taxpayer, or the price of two postage stamps.

Events Calendar

August/September 1995

Aug. 4,11,18,25, Sept. 1,8,15
"Jurassic Valley Farm"
by Ric Averill at Apple Valley

Aug. 5,12,19,26, Sept. 2, 9, 16,
23, 30 "The Devil Take Him" or
"Help Lloyd Save His Immortal
Soul" by Ric and Jeanne Averill
Apple Valley Theatre

Aug. 10-19 "Abundance"
by Beth Henley
Great Plains Theatre Festival

Sept. 15-17, 22-23
"Two by Two"
Junction City Little Theater

Sept. 16 -17 "Rapunzel"
Hot Dog Theatre at Liberty Hall
Seem-To-Be-Players

Sept. 22-24, 28-30
"Little Shop of Horrors"
Manhattan Civic Theatre

Sept. 22-30
"Arsenic and Old Lace"
Salina Community Theatre

Sept. 26-27 "Joseph Andrews"
Shawnee Mission North Theatre

Sept. 28, 30 "The Yellow Boat"
(Freshman/Sophomore Play)
Shawnee Mission North Theatre

Sept. 29-30 "My Fair Lady"
Chanute Community Theatre

Sept. 29-30 "Love Letters"
Great Bend Community Theatre

October 1995

1 "My Fair Lady"
Chanute Community Theatre

1 "Little Shop of Horrors"
Manhattan Civic Theatre

1 "Arsenic and Old Lace"
Salina Community Theatre

1,6,7,8 "Love Letters"
Great Bend Community Theatre

6 "The Wizard of Oz"
Salina Community Theatre

10-14 "What the Bellhop Saw"
Russell Community Theatre

25 "Little Shop of Horrors"
by Howard Ashman/Alan Menken
Shawnee Mission North Theatre

25-29 "The Passion of Dracula"
by Bob Hall and David Richmond
Great Plains Theatre Festival

26-29 "Baba Yaga, the Bony-
Legged Witch" by Ric and Jeanne
Averill, at Lawrence Arts Center
Seem-To-Be Players

November 1995

2,3,4 "Marvin's Room"
by Scott McPhearson
Coffeerville Comm.Coll.Theatre

4 Repertory Theatre
Fall Children's Show
Shawnee Mission North Theatre

10-12, 16-19 "Harvey"
by Mary Chase
Manhattan Civic Theatre

10-11, 17-18
"I'll Be Back Before Midnight"

Junction City Little Theater

15-17 Advanced Repertory
Theatre--Fall Show
Shawnee Mission North Theatre

10-19 "A Piece of My Heart"
Salina Community Theatre

30 Student Directed Acts
Coffeerville Comm.Coll.Theatre

Box Office Contacts

Apple Valley Theatre (913) 876-
2114 or (913) 842-6622

Chanute Community Theatre
(316) 431-1628

Coffeerville Comm. Coll.Theatre
(316) 251-7700, ext. 2145

The Columbian, Wamego, KS
(913) 456-2029

Great Bend Community Theatre
(316) 792-4228

Great Plains Theatre Festival
(913) 263-4574

Junction City Little Theater
(913) 238-6220

Manhattan Civic Theatre
(913) 539-6000

Russell Community Theatre
(913) 483-4057

Salina Community Theatre
(913) 827-6126

Seem-To-Be-Players
(913) 842-6622 or 843-5067

Shawnee Mission North Theatre
(913) 789-3700

"Holy Days" Travels to Cornhusker State

by Rick Bushnell

With the set loaded in the U-Haul and the cast and crew packed safely in a van, the Kansas entry in the Region V AACT-FEST, held April 28-30, "Holy Days," headed north to Lincoln, Nebraska. We all arrived safely without getting lost and headed for the Lincoln Community Playhouse for our rehearsal time slot. Our rehearsal event went off without any problems, and then came the most difficult part of the entire weekend--waiting! See, our rehearsal time was late Thursday afternoon, but our performance wasn't until Saturday evening at 9:00 p.m. You guessed it! We were the last show to perform at the festival. From my previous state festival experiences, I always thought it would be a slight advantage to perform last. WRONG! It seemed like there was never any time to be down or relax. We were all on edge the entire weekend. After we did finally perform, we were all emotionally exhausted and struggled just to get the set loaded back on the truck and head for the hotel. I now know that I never, ever want to be the final production of any festival. I guess I should be careful what I wish for. Oh, by the way, the adjudicators were exhausted, too, having seen eight shows in two and a half days.

Something else that also became crystal clear to me at this regional was something I had heard for years--that Region V is one of, if not the toughest in the nation. All of the productions

were of high quality, expertly designed, crafted and executed.

At the awards brunch on Sunday, there was no element of surprise of drama for us. We knew we had performed well, but we also knew there were better productions that would ultimately win. The fun for us was casting our own ballots as to what show would place first, second, and third. I have to say that I would have been proud to have had any of the top three shows represent our region at nationals in Midland, Texas. (The results are listed below.)

I leave the experience of winning the state festival and going on to regionals a little wiser, older and proud to have represented our state at that level. I vow to be back with a production from Chanute at state in '97 and would be glad to compete at the regional level again, anytime.

Region V Winners:

1st Place-- "The Love Course"
Lakeshore Players
White Bear Lake, MN

2nd Place--
"A...My Name is Still Alice"
Sioux Falls Community Playhouse, Sioux Falls, SD

3rd Place-- "Sea Marks"
Rochester Civic Theatre
Rochester, MN

SCT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

A Capital Aid fund drive is underway for the purchase of a sound system for the theatre. Please send your contribution to:
SCT Sound System, P.O. Box 2305, Salina, KS 67402-2305

Theatre Leader Dies

Mary Jane Teall, the leading lady of theatre in Wichita, was fatally injured in a three-vehicle accident. She died on October 13, 1994.

Teall, who came to Wichita from Nebraska during World War II to direct a teenagers' program, co-founded Wichita Community Theatre in 1946 and was artistic director for 43 years. In 1981 she was inducted into the Kansas Theater Hall of fame, and in 1989 the Little Theater at Century II, which she had helped design, was renamed in her honor.

Teall's artistic vision has set the standard for excellence for many in Kansas theatre.

SCT Presents New Managing Artistic Director



The Salina Community Theatre Board of Directors introduces new Managing Artistic Director, Timothy Jebesen. Mr. Jebesen comes to Salina from Mansfield, Ohio, where he was the Resident Artistic Director of the Mansfield Playhouse. Prior to that Mr. Jebesen was the Managing Artistic Director of the Weathervane Playhouse in Newark, Ohio.

Mr. Jebesen has directed in Equity, Regional, University and Summerstock theatres and has performance experience in Regional and Summerstock theatres.

14th Annual William Inge Festival Sets Attendance Record

by Sue Sutton

Many AKT members took part in the 14th Annual William Inge Festival, April 20 - 22 at Independence Community College in Independence, Kansas. The festival is named after Independence native son, William Inge (*Picnic, Come Back Little Sheba, Dark at the Top of the Stairs, Bus Stop* and *Splendor in the Grass*.)

Each year, the festival presents the William Inge Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theatre. Arthur Miller received this year's award from Jane Alexander, Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, during a "Tribute to Arthur Miller" on April 22 at the William Inge Theatre on the campus of Independence Community College.

Previous recipients of the William Inge Award include: Jerome Lawrence, William Gibson, Robert Anderson, Robert E. Lee, John Patrick, Garson Kanin, Sidney Kingsley, Horton Foote, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Edward Albee, Peter Shaffer, Wendy Wasserstein, and Terrance McNally. During the three-day festival, a record number of participants attended panel discussions, a new play reading, scholars conference, acting workshops, a production of *Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, tours of Independence, a dinner party with Jane Alexander and Nancy Kasselbaum, and the tribute to Arthur Miller. Inge contemporaries, Robert Anderson (*Tea and Sympathy*) and Jerome

Lawrence (*Inherit the Wind, Auntie Mame*) were special guests of the festival as were actor Pat Hingle, actresses Shirley Knight (a Kansas native), Eileen Heckert, Polly Holliday, and Teresa Wright. Jim Halsey, artist manager and agent, Dan Sullivan, theatre critic and teacher, Otis Gurney, editor of the annual *New Plays* series, and Ralph Voss, Inge scholar and author of *A Life of William Inge: Strains of Triumph*, also served as moderators for panel discussions.

The late Margaret Goheen, theatre director at ICC and Inge contemporary, began the Festival in 1981. Since her death several years ago, a Margaret Goheen Award is presented annually to an individual serving a key role in perpetuating the William Inge Festival. This year, the Award was given to Jill Warford, Margaret Goheen's successor as Festival director.

For information about the 1996 Festival, contact Jill Warford at (316) 331-4100.

'95/'96 Board of Directors

President

Ric Averill
(h) 913-842-6622

Children's Division

Deb Wall, Chair
(h) 913-667-4685
(w) 913-827-6126

Trish McIntire, Chair-elect

(h) 913-942-8532

Pam Jones, At Large

(h) 913-825-7632

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Jeannette Bonjour, Chair

(w) 913-832-5016 (at school)
(h) 913-842-3570

Jeanne Averill, At Large

(h) 913-842-6622

Kris Anschutz, At Large

(h) 913-827-0706
(w) 913-826-4751

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(h/w) 816-531-0331

Michael Byington, At Large

(h) 913-233-3839

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(w) 913-231-1010, Ext. 1639
(h) 913-266-9022

Susan Sutton, Community College Liaison

(w) 913-243-1435 or
800-729-5101
(h) 913-243-7861

Holly Andrews, At Large

(h) 913-357-4457

Community Theatre Division

Rick Bushnell, Chair

(w) 316-431-2210
(h) 316-431-3213

Kathryn Page-Hauptman, Chair-elect

(w) 316-634-22787
(h) 316-682-1775

Sally O'Connor, At Large

(w) 316-793-1521
(h) 316-793-3103

Historic Theatre Division

Linda Uthoff, Chair

(h) 913-537-0380
(w) 913-456-2029

Lawrence Community Theatre Wins Outstanding Achievement Award at AKT Convention '95

The Lawrence Community Theatre was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Theatre Award for the Production of "Jack Be Quick." The award was presented at the 1995 Salina Convention to honor Lawrence Community Theatre's ongoing commitment to producing and developing new plays.

Charley Laman Family Wins Award at AKT Convention '95



Pictured are: Sue Sutton, AKT Board Member (left) and the Charley Laman Family (Charley, Nadine, Sean, Maitiu and Tomas)

Reminder:

It's Membership Renewal Time!

"That is what the title of artist means: one who perceives more than his fellows and who records more than he has seen."

--[Edward] Gordon Craig
On the Art of the Theatre [1911]



Michelle Meade

The Steven B. Cathey Award presented by the Association of Kansas Theatre honors "... business leaders or organizations who exhibit the same breadth of vision as Steven B. Cathey of Southwestern Bell in their endeavors to bring business and the arts together in Kansas." The Laman family's leadership in Concordia, and more specifically, their generous underwriting of children's programming at the Brown Grand Theatre, serves as an ambitious example of community and artistic spirit. At this critical time in our country when federal support of the arts is in peril, it has become readily clear that local authority and direction such as the Laman's will become a critical life line for the future of the arts. Congratulations and thank you for your support!

New Year Round Professional Theatre Opens in Kansas

The historic Presbyterian Church on Third and Mulberry in Abilene, the church where Eisenhower and wild Bill Hickok once worshipped, has been rededicated and transformed into the new Tietjens Center for the Performing Arts. This new center is the home of The Great Plains Theatre Festival, Kansas' new year round professional theatre company. The Great Plains Theatre Festival is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to bringing high quality professional theatre to the Great Plains. The Great Plains Theatre Festival opened its doors officially in June, 1995 producing an exciting four show Summer and Fall season, a Christmas Show and a New Playwrights Festival which will promote and develop Kansas playwrights. New York actress Michelle Meade, pictured at left, played to a sold out audience for the GPTF sendoff performance in March. For more information, contact Richard Esvang, Artistic Director at (913) 263-4574.

95/'96 AKT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

"Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Theatre"

Check here to indicate type of membership action:

For more information, call AKT at 800-343-2779

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Your membership is valid from September 1, 1995 through August 31, 1996

Category of Membership: ☐ Student -- \$15 ☐ Individual -- \$35 ☐ Contributing -- \$35+*

**any contribution above \$35 will go into the Kephart Endowment Fund.*

☐ Organizational Member -- \$60 (includes 2 representatives + 3 students)

☐ Organizational Team -- \$200 (includes up to 8 representatives + 3 students)

For Individual/Contributing/Student Memberships:

Name _____

AKT Affiliation(s): ☐ Community Theatre ☐ Children's Theatre ☐ Professional Theatre

☐ Historical Theatre ☐ University/College Theatre ☐ Secondary School Theatre

Organization (if desired) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Bus. Phone (____) _____ Res. Phone (____) _____

Internet

Fax (____) _____ E-mail _____

For Organizational Member/Organizational Team Memberships:

Primary Member/Contact Person _____

Organization Name _____

AKT Affiliation(s): ☐ Community Theatre ☐ Children's Theatre ☐ Professional Theatre

☐ Historical Theatre ☐ University/College Theatre ☐ Secondary School Theatre

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Internet

Bus. Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____ E-mail _____

Please attach separate page with additional members' names, addresses, phone, fax and e-mail for publication in the membership directory and to authorize membership. Use the back to give us your suggestions!

Make checks payable and mail to: AKT, P.O. Box 1873, Lawrence, KS 66044-1873

Thank you!!!

***Make plans now! AKT Convention '96
Feb. 29, Mar. 1-3 at Overland Park, KS***

Jed Davis
2602 Louisiana
Lawrence, KS 66046-

Association of Kansas Theatre
P.O. Box 1873
Lawrence, KS 66044-1873
Address Correction Requested



**AKT Convention '96
February 29, March 1 - 3**

"Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Theatre"

**Johnson County Community College
Overland Park, Kansas**

**Did you know that 1996 is a leap year?
You do now!**



AKT is supported in part by the
Kansas Arts Commission and the
National Endowment for the Arts

MARQUEE has been underwritten by a generous grant from



**Southwestern Bell
Foundation**